

Connecticut Attorney General's Office

Press Release

Attorney General's Statement On The DEP's Second Denial Of Islander East's Permit

July 30, 2003

The following is a statement from Attorney General Richard Blumenthal on this week's denial by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) of Islander East's Coastal Zone Management permit. This is the second denial issued to Islander East by the DEP.

"Islander East should now pull the plug on this environmental nightmare. This potential disaster offers no benefit justifying the severe, irreparable damage to precious natural resources, fragile marine ecosystems, and pristine shellfish beds. Never will the state approve this needless pipeline, so heedless of environmental harm. The DEP has rightly found - a second time - that Islander East's project would be an environmental catastrophe, and that Islander East has never seriously studied alternatives to its route, even though such a study is required by law.

"Both federal and state laws mandate that these projects be placed in the least damaging location in the least damaging manner, if they are needed at all. The Islander East pipeline satisfies none of these criteria. We will continue to vigorously and vociferously fight this shortsighted, self-serving project, which offers nothing but environmental havoc and high costs for Connecticut."

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